

TIPPECANOE COUNTY TREASURER NEWSLETTER



October 27 2008

When will the bills be mailed?

The Tippecanoe County property tax bills should certainly be out by now. However, unfortunately they are not out yet. Let me give you some details on the struggles we have had through this process. In ten years as an elected official, I have not ever been as frustrated as the last month in dealing with this.

Tippecanoe County has used this same tax bill-printing vendor since 2005 with only small difficulties arising. This year is different. Of course, the billing process was delayed due to various reasons forcing Tippecanoe County to look at only one collection period. The initial meeting with our printer occurred back in April when I was informed the company was taken over by another firm. Since we would be dealing with the same personnel, I did not have any great concerns. However, that was over six months ago when the work on our tax bills began.

2008 is the first year of the General Assembly has mandated Tax Comparison statements for all counties. This meant, in addition to the normal tax bills, all taxpayers would also receive a form that compares the 2008 billed amounts with the 2007 billed amounts. The form compares, by taxing authority (such as school, library, county, etc) the amount charges, changes in dollars and percentage changes. This is where the hang-up in printing occurred.

Earlier, I requested of the state, permission to mail the tax bills now and mail the Tax Comparison Statements a little later. Since the statute states the Tax Comparison form is to be mailed with the tax bills, that request was denied.

I have been informed last week that the printer needs additional time to ensure the comparison statements are accurate. Since the tax bills will not be mailed soon enough for a November 10 due date, the County Auditor and I have requested the due date be moved to December 1, 2008 for all 2008 property taxes. That request has been granted. Tax bills are expected to be mailed by November 10.

Viewing a 2008 Real Estate Property Tax Bill

The Tippecanoe County property tax bills can be viewed through the county's GIS website. <http://gis.tippecanoe.in.gov/public/> is the website to do the search. Click on the word Search (in red) on the right-hand side and follow the directions to get the parcel of interest. Clicking below the data allows for viewing of the 2008 real estate tax bill (click on "Current tax statement").

If you wish to pay your taxes prior to the tax bills being mailed, we certainly can accept the payment. Send a check with the key number in the memo line to the Tippecanoe County Treasurer, 20 North 3rd Street, Lafayette IN 47901.

Installment Plan Due Dates

Earlier, the Tippecanoe County Council and the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance approved the use of an installment plan to pay 2008 residential property taxes. This is allowable only for properties with Homestead Credit deductions allowed for taxes due in 2008 and with the Treasurer's Office approved application. Applications must be made **in person** at the Treasurer's Office by the property tax due date (12/1/2008).

As originally proposed the six due dates for the payments were the 10th of each month beginning in November and ending in April. With the due date now extended until December 1, the revised due dates for installment plan payments are the 1st day of each month beginning with December 1 being the first payment due date and May 1 as the sixth and final payment due date.

If you are interested in applying for the installment plan, I would highly recommend not waiting until the last day to file. We expect long lines as we approach the deadline for applying.

Appeal of Assessments

Indiana statutes allow a window of opportunity to appeal the 2007 assessments, which are what 2008 taxed amounts are based when tax bills are mailed. For more information concerning the appeals process, please call either the County Assessor or the Fairfield Township Assessor, (for property located within Fairfield Township).